

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 229167
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S E C R E T STATE 229167

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY VANCE'S PARTY AT CAMP DAVID
FOR KAMER, EIDSNESS, SAUNDERS, OR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 12113 12113 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM, USUN NEW YORK 10 SEP 78

QUOTE S E C R E T TEL AVIV 12113

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS, LE, SY, UN
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON
REF: A) STATE 229141, B) USDEL CAMP DAVID 081533Z SEP 78

1. I HAD LUNCH SEPTEMBER 10 WITH GENERAL GAZIT TO DISCUSS
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON. BLACKWILL AND TWO OF
GAZIT'S AIDES WERE ALSO PRESENT.

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2. BEGAN BY ASKING WHAT WAS PRESENT SITUATION WITH
RESPECT TO UNIFIL ACCESS TO CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES. GAZIT
SAID THAT CURRENT DISAGREEMENT WAS EXAMPLE OF DIFFICULTY
IN TRANSLATING "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" (WEIZMAN-
SHILASVUO UNDERSTANDING OF AUGUST 30) INTO SPECIFIC
AGREEMENT ON THE GROUND. HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC WERE NOT

EAGER TO COOPERATE, ESPECIALLY IN BITTER AFTERMATH OF GOL LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL. EVEN SO, THE CHRISTIAN COMMANDERS HAD NOW AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING:

--1) UNIFIL COULD OPEN LIAISON OFFICES IN MARJAYOUN AND NEAR BINT JBAIL;

--2) THE UN COULD ADD SIX OR SEVEN OBSERVATION POSTS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER TO ITS PRESENT NUMBER OF THREE; AND

--3) THE MAIN ROAD TO FATAHLAND PAST THE NEPALESE AND NORWEGIAN CONTINGENTS HAD BEEN OPENED TO UNIFIL LOGISTIC TRAFFIC.

3. HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC HAD AGREED TO THESE THREE MEASURES, AND CURRENT DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION WAS DUE TO UN. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, GAZIT DENIED THAT ANY WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND UNIFIL WAS REQUIRED. HE REPEATED PRESENT HOLD-UP WAS ENTIRELY RESPONSIBILITY OF UN.

4. THERE NEXT ENSUED LENGTHY EXCHANGE CONCERNING WHAT WEIZMAN HAD OR HAD NOT AGREED TO IN AUGUST 30 MEETING WITH SIILASVUO. I SAID THREE POINTS ABOVE DID NOT MEET WEIZMAN'S COMMITMENTS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING UNIFIL'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE ENCLAVES. ADDING THAT WEIZMAN HAD CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS AT CAMP DAVID
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THAT HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC HAD WELSHED ON DEAL, I WENT OVER DIRE CONSEQUENCES IN NEW YORK OF GOI FAILURE TO MEET AUGUST 30 COMMITMENT.

5. GAZIT OBSERVED THAT WEIZMAN WAS A LONG WAY AWAY AND UNFAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THE SITUATION. NONETHELESS, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR PHONE CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 8, GAZIT HAD TELEPHONED HIM AND WEIZMAN HAD PRONOUNCED HIMSELF "NOT UNHAPPY" WITH PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AGREED TO BY HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC. GAZIT SAID THERE WERE TWO POSSIBILITIES NOW THAT THIS MISUNDERSTANDING HAD OCCURRED. THE UN COULD TAKE WHAT IT WAS BEING OFFERED AND, SHOWING PATIENCE, WORK TO GET MORE IN THE FUTURE. OR IT COULD HOLD OUT NOW FOR EVERYTHING AND CAUSE A CRISIS.

6. I RESPONDED THAT IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THERE WAS A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON UNIFIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THE UN WAS MAD AS A WET HEN BECAUSE IN ITS VIEW, THE GOI HAD VIOLATED ITS COMMITMENT. BLACKWILL THEN REMINDED GAZIT THAT TEHILA HAD TOLD CHARGE HART ON AUGUST 31 THAT ISRAELI AGREEMENT INCLUDED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

IN ENCLAVES FOR UNIFIL TROOPS AND WEIZMAN HAD SAID SAME THING TO HART AT AIRPORT SEPTEMBER 3 BEFORE DEPARTING FOR U.S. GAZIT OPINED THAT THERE WERE TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR THIS - EITHER THERE HAD BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING OR WEIZMAN HAD OVERESTIMATED HIS ABILITY TO DELIVER THE CHRISTIANS.

7. IN REACTION TO MY QUESTION OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, GAZIT SAID HE FELT UNDER NO PRESSURE TO FORCE FURTHER CONCESSIONS FROM THE CHRISTIANS. FOR HIM TO DO THAT WOULD TAKE A DIRECT MESSAGE FROM WEIZMAN FROM CAMP DAVID WHICH CLEARLY INDICATED HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC WERE NOT FULFILLING WEIZMAN'S COMMITMENT AND THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO LINE. I THEN READ SELECTED PORTIONS OF
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AMBASSADOR LEWIS' CONVERSATIONS AT CAMP DAVID WITH WEIZMAN AND TEHILA TO TRY SHOW GAZIT THAT WEIZMAN HAD ALREADY ADMITTED HADDAD HAD VIOLATED COMMITMENTS HE HAD MADE TO THE ISRAELIS. GAZIT WAS UNIMPRESSED AND REPEATED IT WOULD TAKE DIRECT ORDERS FROM WEIZMAN TO ELICIT FURTHER GOI PRESSURE ON THE CHRISTIANS.

8. DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN NORTH LEBANON FOLLOWS
SEPTEL. VIETS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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